

University of Louisville College Readiness and Student Success Programs

The University of Louisville offers strategic programs and coursework based on national best-practice standards for developmental education, high-school enrichment and college success. The following list is representative, not exhaustive and concentrates on programs that have been recognized nationally as best-practice models.

College Readiness

High School Outreach

Recruitment: The university provides regular outreach to Jefferson County Public School and other state public high school students as well as students from private high schools and home-schooled students through its Admissions recruiting offices and the university president's outreach tours through the state. In addition, the university provides on-campus programs to familiarize students with college life, including Accolade (for scholarship-level students), Campus Preview Day, UofL First Look, an extensive shadow program for individual students to visit campus and Admitted Students Day late in the spring.

- <http://louisville.edu/admissions/visit/>

Dual-credit courses: Established in 1981 to promote the University of Louisville's mission and to maintain its commitment to community development, the Dual Credit Program cultivates partnerships with area schools to provide high quality educational experiences to high school students. Courses offered through the Dual Credit Program present a rigorous curriculum introducing qualified students to college-level work, for which they may earn both high school and college credit.

- <http://louisville.edu/english/composition/dual-credit-program>

National Science Foundation LSAMP grant program for high-school STEM students: Now in its third year, this program provides junior and senior high school students with advanced preparatory work in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

High School-to-College Transition Programs

Summer Orientation: The University of Louisville two-day residential summer orientation program, more than thirty years old, is required of all newly-admitted, first-time-in-college students. The program introduces participants to all dimensions of college life and student engagement at a large metropolitan university; general sessions for all students are complemented by small-group structure based upon the academic unit of the student's intended degree. The orientation curriculum includes placement testing, academic advising, financial aid information as well as broad-based introduction to co- and extra-curricular activities. Parents are welcomed to a parallel but independent program of information about college expectations and concerns.

- <http://louisville.edu/admissions/orientation>

CAPS Leaders is an online peer-mentoring program for entering freshmen that continues their orientation on specific civic, academic, personal and social (CAPS) topics. University student mentors use Blackboard, the university online course management system, to contact entering students based upon their enrollment in freshman academic orientation (GEN 101) courses and provide group and individual responses to common transition issues in the CAPS areas. The program is organized and supported by the university's Office of First-Year Initiatives.

- <http://louisville.edu/firstyear/caps-leader>

ADVANCE in Mathematics is a 7 week intensive review program for Mathematics, primarily pre-algebra and algebra skills. This program requires onsite or online instructor-led intensive review sessions. These review sessions offer fast-paced instruction in a self-paced format. In addition, online computer sessions provide practice, supplemental instruction and skills tests for each week of the program. Students must work to task completing weekly assignments and tests for successful completion of the program. If a student successfully completes the program, s/he is eligible to post-test for UofL Mathematics placement. The post-test provides an opportunity for possible advancement in placement. Eligible students can use this opportunity to "ADVANCE" into UofL's general education Mathematics curriculum.

- <http://www.reach.louisville.edu/tutoring/math/advance.htm>

Porter College, a bridge program designed to prepare minority students for the university academic and social environment, first welcomed its students in the summer of 2009. It is a joint project of the university's Cultural Center and the Woodford R. Porter Scholarship program with REACH academic support services. Students in Porter College establish academic and support relationships that are durable over the subsequent years of academic study.

- <http://louisville.edu/culturalcenter>

Academic Achievement Programs

Applicants to the university are required to present ACT test scores, which are used for placement in composition, reading and mathematics. Students who do not meet the university's general admission requirements are referred to JCTC and the university-sponsored ULtra program there. COMPASS tests may be required of students who are admissible under the general admission requirements of the university but who fall below the minimum standard in specific areas as detailed below.

ULtra (University of Louisville Transfer program): Through an agreement with Jefferson Community and Technical College, the University of Louisville stopped offering non-credit developmental course work in 2000. Students not admitted to the university because of academic deficiency are referred to JCTC for developmental course work; these students are invited to participate in the ULtra@JCTC reverse-transfer program, which offers services for students who aspire to earn their Bachelor's degree from the University of Louisville but would like to start at Jefferson Community and Technical College (JCTC). These students can take transferable courses and get the benefit of a smaller class size and less expensive tuition. ULtra has an office on the JCTC Downtown and Southwest campuses and supports students while at JCTC and through the transfer process.

- <http://louisville.edu/ultra/>

English Composition: Students admitted to the university with a deficiency in writing (ACT less than 18) are mainstreamed into college-credit English 101 courses, where all students receive enhanced support through smaller class size and more direct instructor attention. Performance tests in a general assessment of the university writing program (2004-05 and follow-up studies since then) indicate that about 3% of assessed documents exhibited traits of basic writers. New instructors in the university college-credit composition program are given explicit training in recognizing and responding to the needs of basic writers, and the program also coordinates with the University Writing Center to provide additional tutorial help as necessary.

Supplemented Study for Reading: Students admitted to the university with a reading deficiency (ACT Reading score less than 20) are required to take the COMPASS Reading examination. Those who score below 84 are required to enroll in a college-credit special course, "Special Topics in Supplemented College Reading" (GEN 105, 1 credit hour), with content related to a reading-intensive natural or social science course in which they are co-registered, in order to address that reading deficiency.

- <http://www.reach.louisville.edu/tutoring/gen105/>

Mathematics: Students admitted to the university with a deficiency in mathematics (ACT Math score less than 19) are required to take the COMPASS placement exam and may be referred to the JCTC Pathways math program (offered on the university's Belknap Campus) to address deficiencies through KCTCS developmental coursework while they are matriculated at the University of Louisville. Students admitted with ACT Math scores between 19 and 22 are eligible to take college-credit supplemented courses: Math 105 (ACT Math 19-20, general college mathematics, for students whose majors do not require higher-level math) or Math 111 (ACT Math 21-22). Additional support is provided by the Math Resource Center and by the online Virtual Math Center, both of which operate out of REACH, the university's central tutoring service (see below).

- <http://www.reach.louisville.edu/tutoring/math/>

Student Success

The University of Louisville supports a wide range of student success programs across the range of experience that students have at the university—academic, co-curricular, social, community service and career development. The following select list of URLs refers to some of the programs that have been recognized by national organizations, by reference in professional

publications, or by invited consultancies with other universities and colleges. Programs sponsored by individual academic units or limited to particular populations are not listed here.

REACH provides academic services and specific support programs to enable students to better prepare and adapt to college life and to enhance their academic skills and performance in college courses. We encourage and support students in developing successful college careers. It has been recognized for excellence by the Association of Tutoring Professionals' 2009 national award for Program of Excellence and Tutor of the Year and by two Learning Support Centers in Higher Education awards for web site design. REACH tutors are trained according to the international standards of the College Reading and Learning Association for mentors and tutors at the initial, advanced or master levels.

REACH programs include individual and small group tutoring, supplemented instruction, academic development specialized advising, graduate and professional school admissions examination preparation, and student success seminars. REACH also sponsors the REACH Ambassadors, a sophomore peer-mentoring program for first-year students that includes online and direct contacts and continues the work of the First-Year Initiative CAPS Leaders program, and the SAGE early-warning referral service for students with academic or personal difficulties; referrals can be made by any instructor at any time, and are followed up and tracked by REACH staff, counselors and academic advisors as necessary.

- <http://www.reach.louisville.edu/>

Ideas to Action, the university's quality enhancement program for student learning under the accreditation program the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, provides students with critical-thinking tools and vocabulary to use across academic disciplines and extra-curricular activities so that upper-division students can apply critical-thinking skills to real-world issues in service, research and careers outside the university. The i2a project has been recognized by the Critical Thinking Foundation through invited presentations and by numerous consultancies with Kentucky and other states' colleges and universities.

- <http://louisville.edu/ideastoaaction>

Office of Civic Engagement, Leadership and Service enhances the education of students by providing structured experiential and developmental opportunities that encourage responsible citizenship, leadership, and community engagement. The office, under Student Affairs' Dean of Students, serves as the hub for leadership development, service learning, and civic engagement activities in addition to or in cooperation with academic programs such as "Ideas to Action" and several unit-based programs. The office also sponsors Bonner Leaders, Alternative Spring Break and International Service Learning programs throughout the year under the recognized best practices in each area.

- <http://louisville.edu/leadership>

Office of First-Year Initiatives includes post-matriculation/enrollment programming for students new to the university or to higher education in general. Programming includes Welcome Weekend, the four days before the beginning of the fall term, to introduce students more fully to the university and the city; Book-in-Common, which integrates a selected text with various courses common to first-year students through campus visits by the author, campus-wide art or engagement events and independent course projects; and many less comprehensive programs that run throughout the year.

- <http://louisville.edu/firstyear/>

Office of Academic Advising Practice provides support and leadership to academic advisors and advising center directors in the undergraduate units of the university. The goal of the office is to assist academic units in providing consistent and quality academic advising services that will promote student retention and success. Some of the initiatives of the office include the development and maintenance of a university-wide advising plan, the promotion of consistent advising practice among the units, and the development, implementation and support of advisor development programs. A central online site of advisor support is maintained by the office as a resource to academic advisors and advising center directors.

- <http://louisville.edu/advising/>

Office of Military and Veteran Student Services opened in January 2010, implementing a 2008 task force. The office provides transition and academic referral services to active-duty military and veteran personnel, either as entering or as transfer students. Veterans Administration counselors are on site weekly.

- <http://louisville.edu/veterans/>

ULtra@Belknap and *Office of Transfer Articulation* provide academic support services and transfer articulation (course evaluation services for all transfer students.

- <https://louisville.edu/admissions/apply/transfer>